BATMAN:®

run, RIDDLER™, run

gerard JONES mark BADGER willie SCHUBERT

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BATMAN: RUN, RIDDLER, RUN 2

JONES BADGER SCHUBERT

DC COMICS

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BATMAN: RUN, RIDDLER, RUN
Book two of three
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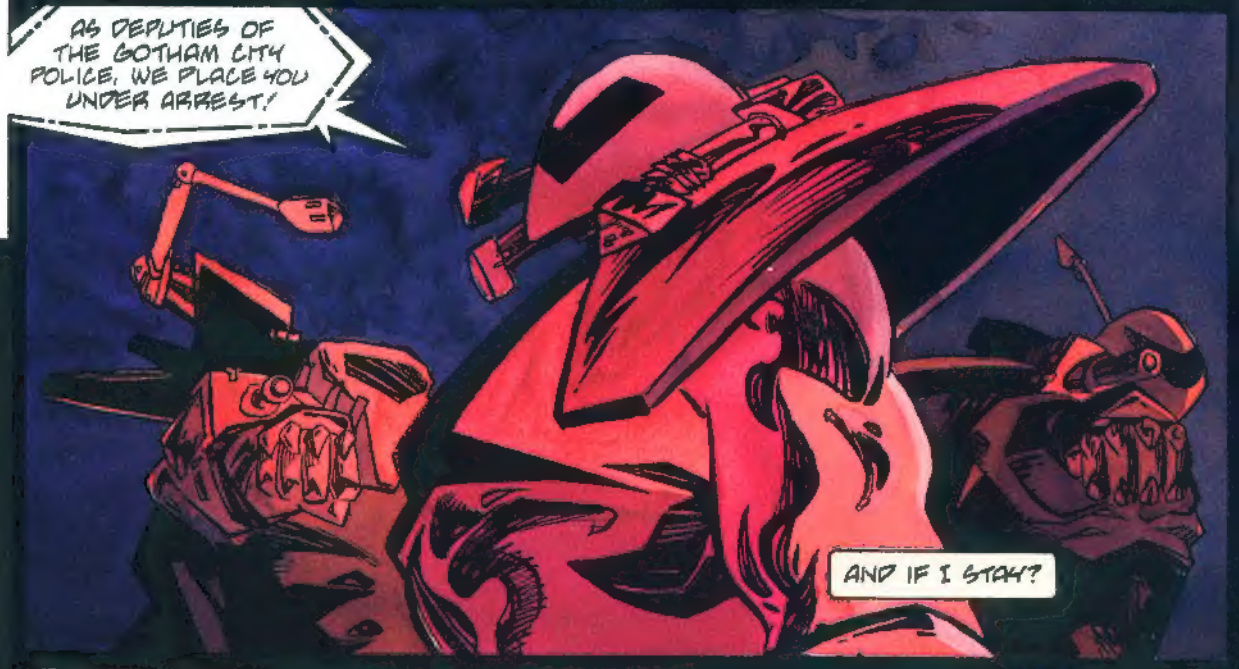
LETTERS

paved

"BATMAN NEVER KILLS."
IT'S A GOOD MOTTO. A WISE JUSTIFICATION. A COVER-ALL.
BUT IT DOESN'T BREATHE LIFE INTO THE BODY AT MY FEET.

FREEZE! POLICE!
KEEP YOUR HANDS IN FULL VIEW!
AND IT DOESN'T SAVE ME NOW.
IF I JUMP, THEY START SHOOTING.


AS DEPUTIES OF THE GOTHAM CITY POLICE, WE PLACE YOU UNDER ARREST!
AND IF I STAY?

FIRE! FIRE!
CHAK
CHAK
CHAK
CHAK
ZING

EVEN MONEY THEY'D HAVE *THROWN* ME OFF AND *THEN* STARTED SHOOTING.

CEASE FIRING!

CHAK CHAK

BUT HE KILLED SATORU! HE--

I KNOW.

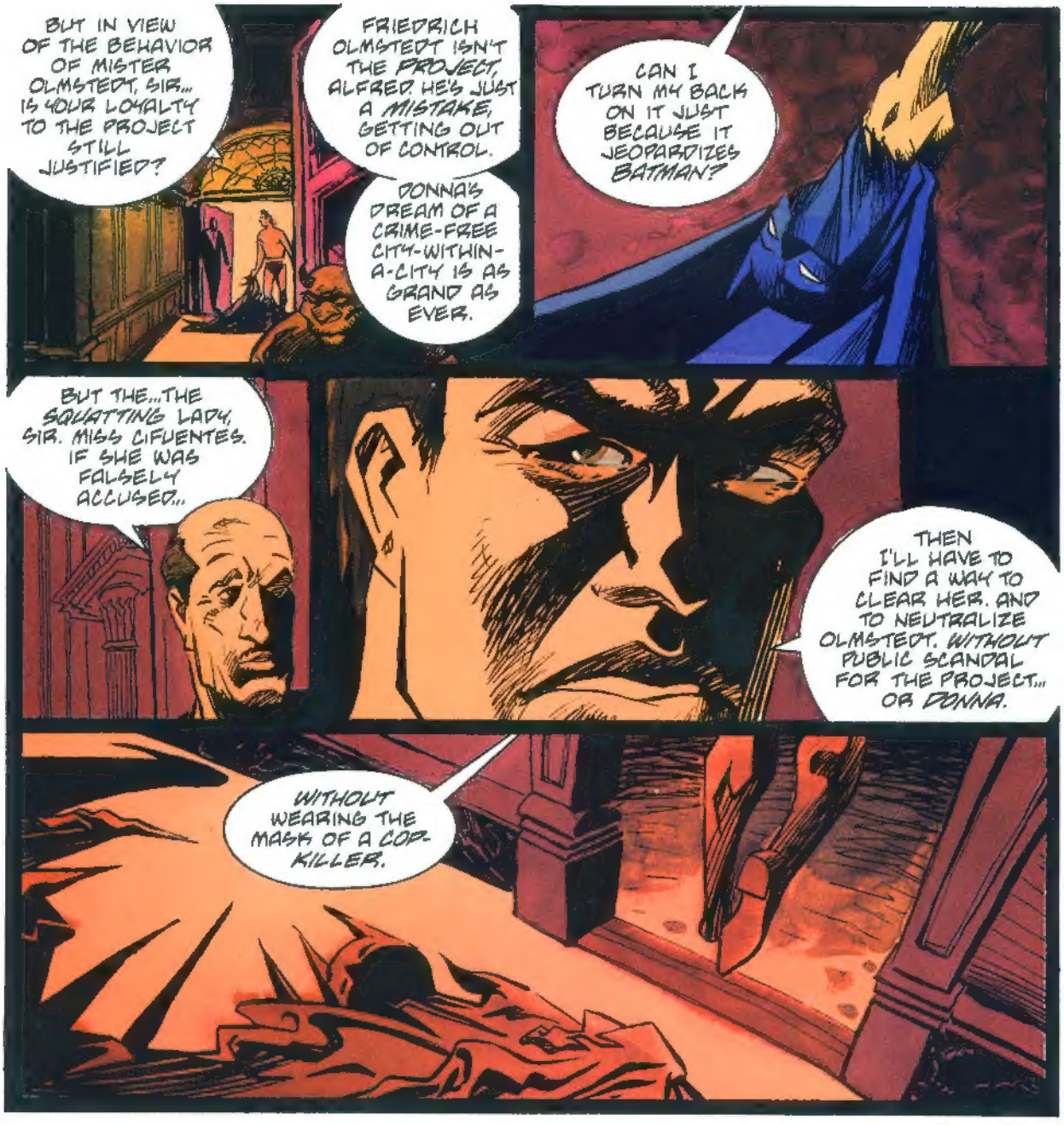
I HAVE IT ON VIDEOTAPE.

...CERTAINLY I UNDERSTAND, SIR. BUT IF *BATMAN* MUST REMAIN OUT OF SIGHT FOR A TIME...

...MIGHT MASTER BRUCE NOT DO A BIT OF INVESTIGATING ON HIS OWN? SURELY YOUR ASSOCIATION WITH MS. DIFORZA...

MEANS I CAN'T AFFORD TO LET *MASTER BRUCE* BE LINKED TO A *KILLER*.

MASTER BRUCE HAS TO GO ON HELPING TO BUILD *NEW GOTHAM*... WHILE *BATMAN* HIDES IN THE SHADOWS.


BUT IN VIEW OF THE BEHAVIOR OF MISTER OLMSTEDT, SIR... IS YOUR LOYALTY TO THE PROJECT STILL JUSTIFIED?
FRIEDRICH OLMSTEDT ISN'T THE PROJECT, ALFRED HE'S JUST A MISTAKE, GETTING OUT OF CONTROL.
DONNA'S DREAM OF A CRIME-FREE CITY-WITHIN-A-CITY IS AS GRAND AS EVER.
CAN I TURN MY BACK ON IT JUST BECAUSE IT JEOPARDIZES BATMAN?
BUT THE...THE SQUATTING LADY, SIR. MISS CIFUENTES. IF SHE WAS FALSELY ACCUSED...
THEN I'LL HAVE TO FIND A WAY TO CLEAR HER. AND TO NEUTRALIZE OLMSTEDT. WITHOUT PUBLIC SCANDAL FOR THE PROJECT... OR DONNA.
WITHOUT WEARING THE MASK OF A COP-KILLER.

THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT OF HIS GUILT.
CAN THERE, COMMISSIONER?
SOON BEFORE BATMAN TRIED TO PREVENT OUR ARREST OF THE SQUATTERS, YOU SUMMONED HIM WITH THE BAT-SIGNAL.
WHY?
WILL YOU BE KNOWN AS THE MAN WHO DESTROYED GOTHAM'S SALVATION-- BY PROTECTING A PUBLIC MENACE?
MISTER OLMSTEDT, UNLESS I'VE MISSED SOMETHING, YOU ARE STILL A DEPUTY OF THIS FORCE. AND I DON'T BELIEVE I'M ANSWERABLE TO A--
YOU ARE ANSWERABLE TO HISTORY!
AND JUST WHO THE HELL IS THE MENACE HERE, OLMSTEDT?

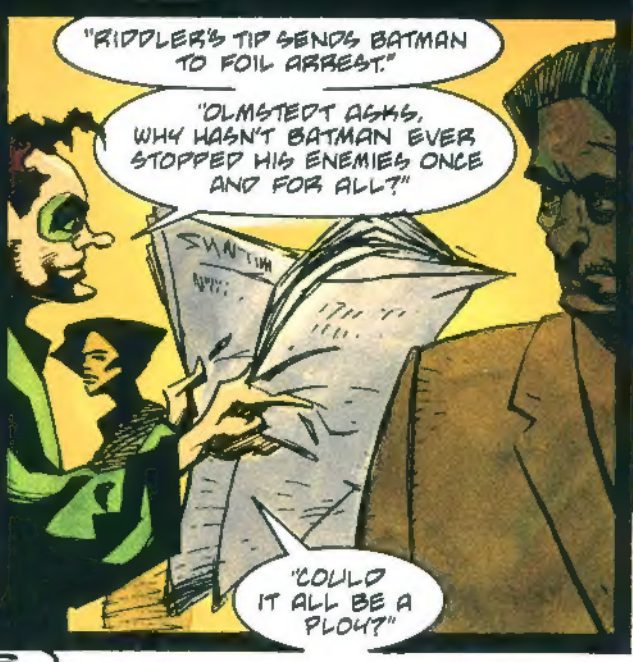
LET'S CUT THIS, JIM. BATMAN'S FINALLY PROVED HE'S THE CRIMINAL I ALWAYS SAID HE WAS.
BUT PERFECT SECURITY IS POPULAR WITH THE BIGGEST PEOPLE IN TOWN. WHEN THEY HEAR BATMAN KILLED ONE OF THEM--THEY'LL WANT HIS HEAD.
YOU HEARD THE MAYOR, COMMISSIONER. YOU SHOULD HELP ME.
OR DO YOU WANT TO LOSE YOUR HEAD, AS WELL?

MISTER MAYOR HAS PROMISED THAT IF I DEMAND AN INVESTIGATION... I WILL HAVE IT.
AN INV...
DAMN IT!

I'LL SHOW YOU WHY I CALLED BATMAN.

IT WAS THIS NOTE. FROM THE RIDDLER.

NOW, THERE'S A HEADLINE! "BATMAN JOINS RIDDLER!"
AH, POOR BATMAN, DEAR BATMAN. WHAT'S BLACK AND WHITE AND DEAD ALL OVER?
BATMAN RIDDLER
BATMAN RIDDLER


"RIDDLER'S TIP SENDS BATMAN TO FOIL ARREST."
"OLMSTEDT ASKS, WHY HASN'T BATMAN EVER STOPPED HIS ENEMIES ONCE AND FOR ALL?"
"COULD IT ALL BE A PLOY?"

OH, FRITZY! VOWING TO STOP US ALL FOREVER AND EVER AND EVER. BATMAN... THE RIDDLER...AND THAT TERRIBLE ROBERTA CIFUENTES. CRIMINALS ALL.
BUT WHO ARE THE CRIMINALS, FRITZY...
WHEN THE CRIMINALS WRITE THE LAWS?
MS CIFUENTES, WE HEAR THAT AN ANONYMOUS BENEFACTOR HAS COVERED YOUR LEGAL FEES...
I DON'T KNOW WHO.
BUT GIVEN MISTER DAMROTH'S FEES, THE AMOUNT MUST BE FAR MORE THAN YOU--
I DON'T KNOW WHO.
I JUST KNOW DAMROTH SHOWED THE D.A. THAT HE'S GOT NO EVIDENCE NO-HOW. AND I KNOW THE PEOPLE WHO WANT US OUT OF THE WAY AREN'T GOING TO LET THIS REST.
AND I KNOW ONE MORE THING...
...THEY'RE NOT GOING TO STOP US.

YOW.
SORRY, MAN, I GOTTA CUT. THOSE ORGANIZERS ARE HERE ALREADY.
YARDES, GUYS. LOOK, WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO IS OCCUPY ONE OF THOSE BUILDINGS THEY'RE TRYING TO SMASH. BY FORCE IF WE HAVE TO.
WE NEED A DEMONSTRATION IN SUPPORT. CAN YOU GET BEHIND THIS?
WELL, IF WE SUPPORT INSURRECTION IN EL SALVADOR, I GUESS WE CAN SUPPORT IT IN GOTHAM CITY.
I LIKE THAT SO LISTEN-- THERE'S THIS OLD COFFEE FACTORY.
IT USED TO GIVE REAL JOBS TO REAL PEOPLE. BUT DIFORZA'S PROBABLY GOING TO TURN IT INTO PET BOUTIQUES, AND CONDOS FOR SOAP-OPERA STARS.
NOW THE PLACE IS A FORTRESS. SO ONCE WE...
...WE...
...WE...

I WANT YOU TO BACK OFF YOUR FIGHT-- FOR NOW.
I WILL BE ABLE TO HELP YOU, BUT NOT IMMEDIATELY. YOU SHOULD AVOID GETTING INTO A WORSE DILEMMA.
WHAT? WITH THEM ABOUT TO START DEMOLITION IN OUR NEIGHBOR-HOOD? FORGET IT!
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
WHY? WHY SAVE THAT CANCEROUS NEIGHBORHOOD? WHY OPPOSE NEW GOTHAM?
IF YOU FEEL LIKE THAT, WHY ARE YOU HELPING ME?
IN THE NAME OF JUSTICE.
YEAH. CRIMINAL JUSTICE. WHAT ABOUT SOCIAL JUSTICE? HUH?
LIKE THE JUSTICE OF DEVELOPERS AND POLITICIANS TELLING US WHAT'S BEST FOR OUR COMMUNITIES.
BE CAUTIOUS, ROBERTA.

I TELL YOU, I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM IN MONTHS! PLEASE!
YOU DID BURGLARIES FOR HIM WHEN HE WORKED FOR DIFORZA DEVELOPMENT. NOW, WE ASK ONCE MORE...
WHERE DID THE RIDDLER GO?
AGGUGHH! PLEASE! I'LL TELL YOU! JUST DON'T PULL... DON'T PULL...
HE WENT TO HANG WITH HARRY MONAHAN'S GANG UP ON 82nd, OKAY?
THERE. THAT WASN'T SO DIFFICULT WAS IT?
AAAAA-*
KRAAK
MISTER OLMSTEDT IS RIGHT. THIS IS MUCH QUICKER THAN OFFERING A REWARD.
LISTEN.
OUR SECOND BUILDING IS GOING DOWN! NOW THAT WE HAVE THOSE SQUATTERS OUT OF THERE--
THOOM
YOU CAN'T CONTROL HIM LIKE YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD.
OH, BRUCE, DO WE ALWAYS HAVE TO TALK ABOUT FRITZ OLMSTEDT?
MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT. MAYBE HE IS DANGEROUS. BUT HE DISCOVERED THE BATMAN-RIDDLER LINK! AND IF THERE ARE CONSPIRACIES LIKE THAT IN THE OFFING, THEN WE NEED--

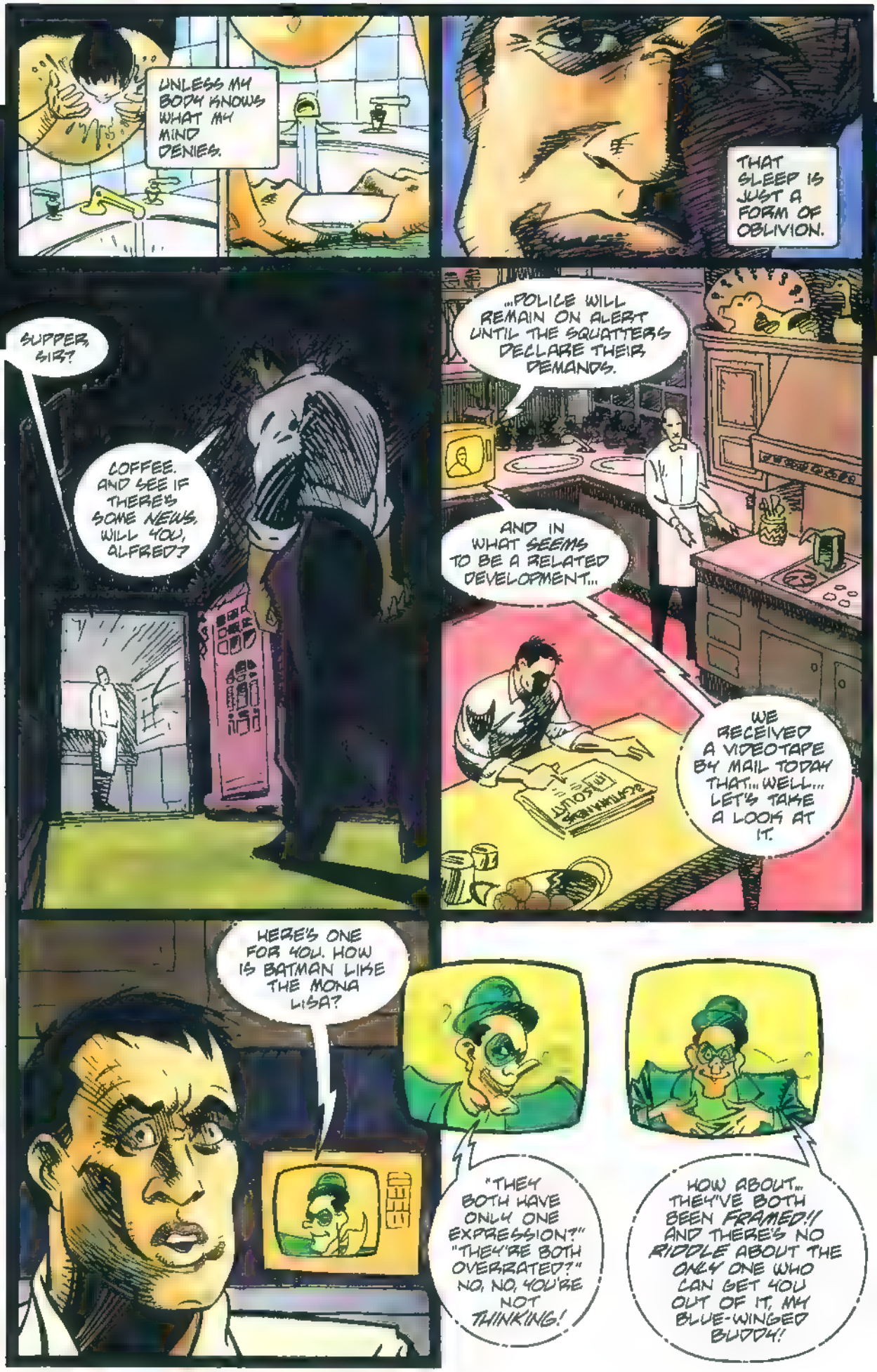
DONNA, YOU CAN'T BELIEVE THAT BATMAN AND THE RIDDLER ARE A TEAM!
WHY NOT, BRUCE? WHY CAN'T I BELIEVE IT?
I...
I DON'T KNOW. BUT OLMSTEDT IS POLARIZING THE PUBLIC, AND IF THAT--
DAMN IT, BRUCE. I'M IN CONTROL. ALL RIGHT? I'M IN CONTROL!
NOW WHY DON'T YOU HAVE A DRINK BEFORE YOU BLOW A--
FRITZ!
SHE HAS BEEN FREED! THE LEADER OF THE RABBLE HAS BEEN FREED!
FRITZ...
...WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN MY PENT-HOUSE?

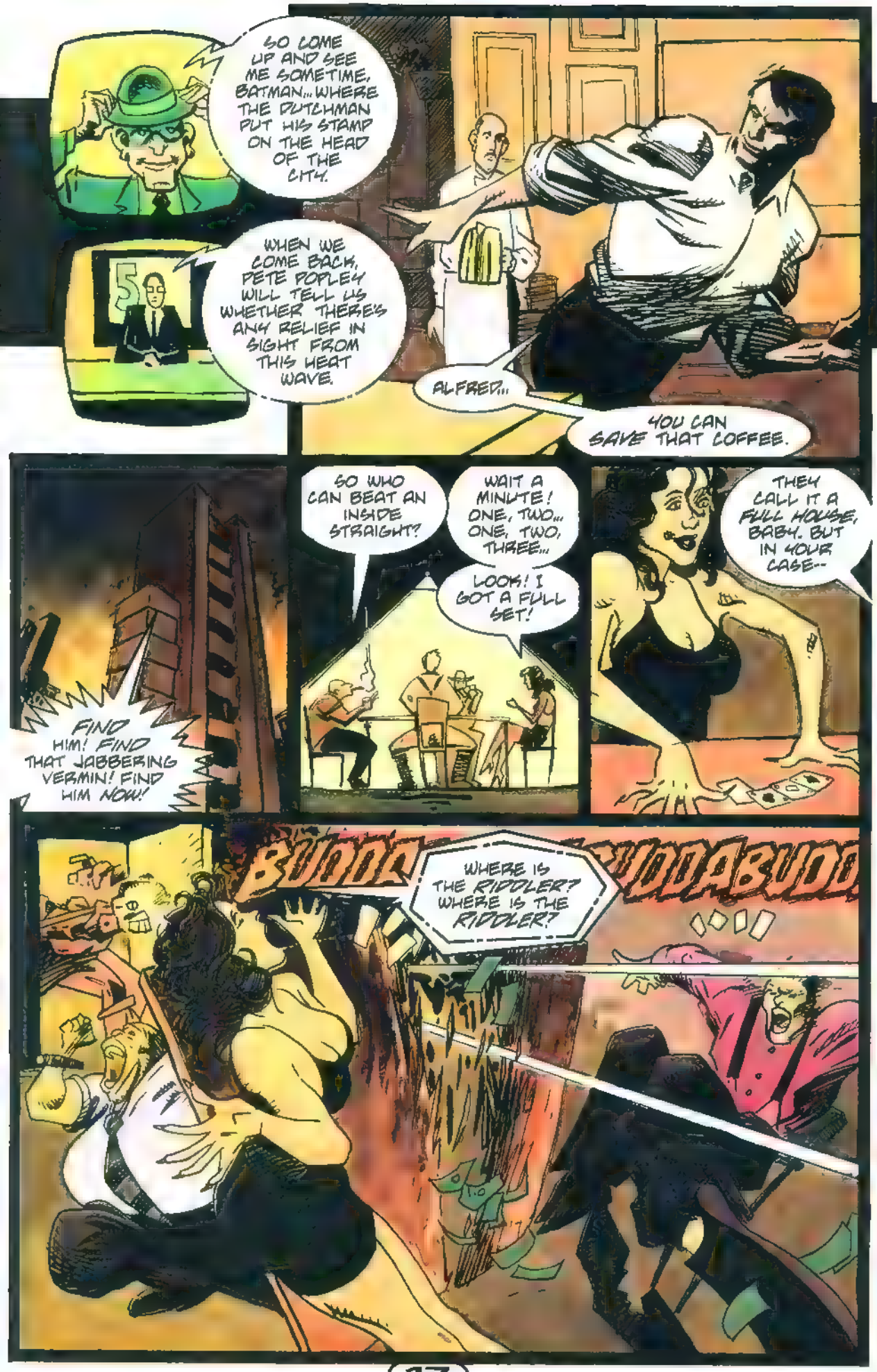
YOU HAVE BEEN IGNORING MY MESSAGES. YOU HAVE BEEN IGNORING THE SIGNS. OF CONSPIRACY. OF UPRISING.
NOW YOU HAVE LET THIS WOMAN WALK AWAY-- JUST AS YOU LET THE RIDDLER WALK AWAY.
OH? AND WHAT SHOULD I HAVE DONE WITH THE RIDDLER?
OH.
TELL YOUR FRIEND COMMISSIONER GORDON THAT I WANT THE NAME OF THAT RICH MAN WHO PAID FOR THE RABBLE'S LAWYER--
--WITH NO STALLING THIS TIME!
YOU'LL GET WHAT YOU WANT WHEN THE TIME COMES.
BUT YOU WILL NOT BARGE IN HERE AGAIN! DO YOU HEAR ME?
I WILL DO WHAT IS NECESSARY...FOR THE SECURITY OF OUR PROJECT.
IN CONTROL, DONNA?
SLAM

WHOA! LOOKA THIS!
:Wheeeet!:
'EY, CHICA CHICA! C'MERE! I GOT SOMETHING TO SHOW YOU, BABY!
CONSTRUCTION
OH YEAH? WELL, I GOT SOMETHING TO SHOW YOU, TOO.
HEY HEY. SO LET'S SEE IT.
OKAY. TAKE A GOOD LOOK.
NOW HOW ABOUT YOU SHOW ME THE INSIDE OF THIS BUILDING?
HOUSING NOW
DANNA OUT
AMAZING HOW REALISTIC THEY MAKE THESE TOY GUNS NOWADAYS
IT'S TERRIBLE. WHAT IF THE WRONG ELEMENT SHOULD GET AHOLD OF ONE?

WHADDABOUT MY JOB, UH? TELL ME DAT!
DON'T BE TELLIN' ME ABOUT YOUR JOB WHEN I GOT NO PLACE TO LIVE, MAN!
OH, JEEZ...
...I THINK WE GOT A SITUATION HERE.
THE POLICE CORDON THE BUILDING. THEY DO NO MORE...
...BUT WE COULD CLEAR THEM OUT EASILY.
ACH, IT WOULD BE SO BEAUTIFUL, SO NEAT.
BUT THANKS TO THE LAWYERS WE MUST WIN PUBLIC OPINION TO OUR SIDE AGAIN.
DO YOU HEAR ME? YES?
THEN WHY DO YOU STAND THERE? GET ME MY PUBLIC RELATIONS VICTORY! GET ME BATMAN! GET ME THE RIDDLER!
NOW, CALM DOWN, DONNA IS OLMSTEDT...
GOOD. KEEP HIM THERE. AWAY FROM THAT BUILDING. WE HAVE TO CONTAIN THIS MESS. YOU TALK TO THE MAYOR.
I'LL DO WHATEVER I CAN.

WHICH IS WHAT?
SWING INTO THE NIGHT AS BATMAN, TO RIGHT ALL WRONGS?
DREAM ON, BRUCE.
HIS EYES ARE ON YOU NOW. HIS ELECTRONIC EYES, TELESCOPIC EYES.
HE'LL LEARN SOON ENOUGH WHO PAID FOR ROBERTA'S DEFENSE. THEN EVEN YOUR TUXEDOED IDENTITY WILL BE UNMASKED.
THERE'S NOTHING TO DO BUT WAIT, WHILE YOUR CITY THROBS IN THE SUMMER HEAT. ANY MOVE COULD MAKE IT EXPLODE.
NOTHING TO DO BUT WAIT.
WAIT FOR WHAT?
OOOOOOO-WAHH!
ALL DAY SEARCHING. TRAIL LEADING TO TRAIL. AND NO RIDDLER. MISTER OLMSTEDT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE!
I SUPPOSE IT'S NOT WISE TO COMPLAIN ABOUT MISSING ART PEPPER AT THE BLUE BIRD.
Mm?
SUNSET?
ALL DAY? HOW COULD I SLEEP ALL DAY?


UNLESS MY BODY KNOWS WHAT MY MIND DENIES.
THAT SLEEP IS JUST A FORM OF OBLIVION.
SUPPER, SIR?
COFFEE. AND SEE IF THERE'S SOME NEWS, WILL YOU, ALFRED?
...POLICE WILL REMAIN ON ALERT UNTIL THE SQUATTERS DECLARE THEIR DEMANDS.
AND IN WHAT SEEMS TO BE A RELATED DEVELOPMENT...
WE RECEIVED A VIDEOTAPE BY MAIL TODAY THAT... WELL... LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT IT.
HERE'S ONE FOR YOU. HOW IS BATMAN LIKE THE MONA LISA?
"THEY BOTH HAVE ONLY ONE EXPRESSION?" "THEY'RE BOTH OVERRATED?" NO, NO, YOU'RE NOT THINKING!
HOW ABOUT... THEY'VE BOTH BEEN FRAMED!! AND THERE'S NO RIDDLE ABOUT THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN GET YOU OUT OF IT, MY BLUE-WINGED BUDDY!


SO COME UP AND SEE ME SOMETIME, BATMAN... WHERE THE DUTCHMAN PUT HIS STAMP ON THE HEAD OF THE CITY.
WHEN WE COME BACK, PETE POPLEY WILL TELL US WHETHER THERE'S ANY RELIEF IN SIGHT FROM THIS HEAT WAVE.
ALFRED...
YOU CAN SAVE THAT COFFEE.
FIND HIM! FIND THAT JABBERING VERMIN! FIND HIM NOW!
SO WHO CAN BEAT AN INSIDE STRAIGHT?
WAIT A MINUTE! ONE, TWO... ONE, TWO, THREE...
LOOK! I GOT A FULL SET!
THEY CALL IT A FULL HOUSE, BABY. BUT IN YOUR CASE--
BUDDA
WHERE IS THE RIDDLER? WHERE IS THE RIDDLER?

THE RIDDLER MENTIONED "THE DUTCHMAN." ONE OF THE DUTCH FOUNDERS OF GOTHAM CITY? BUT THERE WERE HUNDREDS OF THEM...ALL OVER TOWN.
THE HEAD OF THE CITY. THE MAYOR? A DUTCH MAYOR? NO.
GEOGRAPHIC HEADS. BIRNLEY HEAD IN THE HARBOR. BYCE HEAD IN THE RIVER. BUT THE DUTCHMAN...
...THE DUTCHMAN'S STAMP
THE GIANT STATUE OF A RUBBER STAMP IN BIRNLEY HEAD PARK...BY THE DUTCH POP ARTIST OLIN BOURG.
NO
DON'T DROP ME! I'LL TELL YOU ANYTHING!
I'LL TELL YOU WHERE I SEEN HIM, WHAT HE DONE...
...I'LL EVEN TELL YOU THE RIDDLES HE SAID!
JUST DON'T DROP ME IN THAT STINKING RIVER!
BUT WHAT ABOUT IT? RIDDLER, WHERE ARE YOU?

WAIT.
INDEPENDENCE LEADS TO LUCK BUT DOUBLY BAD LUCK LEADS TO INDEPENDENCE YOUR CALL
NO GHETTO VANDAL SCRAWLED THIS.
WHICH SHIPPING COMPANY?
WHICH? WHICH?!
"YOUR CALL... A PHONE NUMBER."
"INDEPENDENCE IS 26. LEADS TO LUCK...?
DOUBLE THIRTEEN, BAD LUCK, FOR 26. AND ANOTHER INDEPENDENCE.
767-2676.
RIDDLER! WHERE ARE YOU?
FIFTY CENTS BOUGHT HIM ONCE, BUT NOW HE'LL COST YOU FIFTY DOLLARS
AND HURRY, BATMAN. HURRY. I'VE HEARD OVER THE GRAPEVINE THAT OLMSTEDT IS CLOSING IN ON ME
THEN JUST TELL ME WHERE YOU ARE.
NO RIDDLES FOR ONCE-- JUST TELL ME.
BUT... BUT THEN...

...IT WOULDN'T BE FUN!
FIFTY CENTS FIFTY DOLLARS
VVVIIIIIIII
HELLO! DO YOU KNOW HOW I AM?
WHAT? VOCKO DID? HE TOLD THEM?
OH, DEAR
I COULD RUN. I COULD LEAVE
BUT HOW COULD I TELL BATMAN? WHAT IF THEY CAUGHT ME BEFORE I GAVE HIM A NEW RIDDLE?
HURRY, BATMAN...
...USE THAT CLEVER LITTLE BRAIN!
THE ONE TIME I WANT YOU TO SOLVE MY RIDDLE...
...DON'T...
THE CEILING...
KLASH
BATMAN? IS IT YOU?
WHUP

WOOPS.
YOU KNOW, RIDDLER, I FEARED THAT YOUR LUNACIES WOULD ONE DAY DESTROY US
I AM SO PLEASED TO KNOW THAT THEY HAVE DESTROYED YOU INSTEAD
WHAT WILL YOU DO, FRITZ? ARREST ME? WHAT CRIME CAN YOU PROVE I COMMITTED WITHOUT BETRAYING YOURSELF?
NONE BUT YOU ARE PANICKED. FEARING CAPTURE, YOU TURN AND RUN.
AND SO WE ARE FORCED TO SHOOT YOU IN THE ACT OF ESCAPING.
OLD FIFTY CENT PIECE FIFTY DOLLAR BILL. BEN FRANKLIN.
BEN FRANKLIN SHIPPING.
THE BUILDING IS EASY TO SPOT..

...THE ONE WITH THE ROBOT NINJAS IN THE WINDOW.
KRASSH!
BUDDABUDD
THE SMOKE FIRST.
BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA
KREEEE
BUT THEIR AIM IS STILL SHARP. SENSORS...
...JUST AS I THOUGHT SO LET THEIR SENSORS READ THIS.
WHAT?
BATMAN?
AND ANOTHER BATMAN?
AND ANOTHER--
--AND ANOTHER!
AND ANOTHER!
BUDDABUDDA

LET THEM READ THE BAT-SHAPED KITES.
BUDDA
SLAM
BUDDA
AND THE SHRAPNEL WHEN THEY BLOW.
BATMAN?
BATMAN, I HOPE YOU DON'T FORGET WHAT THE POINT OF THIS--
BUDDABUDD
DDA
POW
Urk
Whuff
DON'T WORRY, RIDDLER.
BUDDABUD
AB
GET OFF YOUR SENSORS! ON VISUAL ON VISUAL!
BUDDABUDDABU

I KNEW I COULD COUNT ON YOU, BATMAN. DID YOU LIKE THE ONE ABOUT BEN FRANKLIN?
YOU SAID I WAS FRAMED, RIDDLER. NOW TALK.
THAT'S ONE THING YOU NEVER HAVE TO FORCE ME TO DO, BATMAN. JUST TAKE ME WHERE WE CAN'T BE HEARD...
CHMART
BUDDABY
BUDDA
CEASE FIRING! THEY ARE OUTSIDE!
NO GOOD, MISTER OLMSTEDT! WE HAVE LOST THEM!
NO
NO!!

A LOCKED-UP WAREHOUSE AT THE EDGE OF TOWN! HOW NOVEL!
BUT SHOULDN'T YOU HAVE BLINDFOLDED ME BEFORE BRINGING ME TO YOUR SANCTUM, BATMAN? YOU KNOW THAT IN THE KINGDOM OF THE MASKED, THE BLINDFOLDED MAN IS KING.
THIS IS NOT MY SANCTUM, RIDDLER.
...THAN A CAVERN FILLED WITH MONSTERS FROM THE PAST?
NICE CEILING TO HANG FROM, TOO.
A MAN GOT LOST IN A CAVERN ONCE. BLEW OUT HIS CANDLE BECAUSE SEEING THE WALLS MADE HIM FEEL TRAPPED.
I WANT TO THROTTLE HIM BECAUSE HE KNOWS TOO MUCH. BUT HE MAY KNOW NOTHING.
THAT'S THE TORTURE OF HIS RIDDLES. YOU NEVER KNOW.
ONLY A STOREHOUSE OF THE GOTHAM NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM--WHICH I KNOW WON'T BE USED FOR A WHILE
NO ONE CAN HEAR YOU HERE. GIVE ME ANSWERS.
NOT YOUR SANCTUM, hm? PITY WHAT BETTER PLACE FOR YOU, BATMAN...
ANSWERS, RIDDLER. IF I DIDN'T KILL THAT MAN--THEN OLMSTEDT DID IT, RIGHT?
HOW DO I PROVE IT?
THE FLEX OF AN IRIS, THE SPIN OF A REEL... ELECTRONS RECORD WHAT THE EYE CAN'T REVEAL.
WE'LL HAVE TO BE PARTNERS, YOU KNOW. WON'T THAT BE FUN? I CAN BE YOUR NEW ROBIN!
PITY SHORT-SHORTS ARE OUT OF STYLE.
YOU'RE TELLING ME THERE ARE TAPES.
WHERE ARE THESE TAPES?

OH, BATMAN. I'M NOT CLEVER ENOUGH TO THINK OF A WAY TO TELL YOU WHERE THEY ARE
BUT I'LL BE YOUR TRAIL OF BREAD CRUMBS...
...I'LL LEAD YOU THERE.
NO.
I NEED TO KNOW WHAT YOU KNOW. EVERYTHING YOU KNOW ABOUT OLMSTEDT...AND DONNA DIFORZA
MM "DONNA DIFORZA."
YOUR VOICE WAS FLAT AS A PARKING LOT UNTIL IT HIT THAT LITTLE SPEED BUMP.
IF WE'RE VEERING OUT OF CONTROL, BATMAN...
...I'D BETTER HONK THE HORN. "BEEP-BEEP."
MS. DIFORZA IS BUILDING A NEW KIND OF COMMUNITY ONE THAT MIGHT PROVE RESISTANT TO DISEASES LIKE YOURS.
I WON'T ALLOW CREATURES LIKE YOU...OR OLMSTEDT... TO RUIN IT
I ONCE SAW A HAWK WHO WAS SO INTENT UPON A FIELD MOUSE A MILE AWAY THAT HE CRASHED INTO A TREE AND DIED
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
AND HOW ABOUT THE FIGHTER WHO SOUGHT THE PERFECT OPPONENT?
WHEN HE FOUND HIM HE BATTLED UNTIL HIS HANDS WERE BLOODY PULPS.
WASN'T HE DISAPPOINTED WHEN THEY FINALLY TOOK AWAY THE MIRROR.
RIDDLER, IF YOU'RE TRYING TO TELL ME--
BIP BIP

YOU'RE A LUCKY MAN, RIDDLER SAVED BY THE BELL
TRY NOT TO THINK OF ANY RIDDLES WHILE I'M GONE.
IT'S MS. DIFORZA, SIR. IT SEEMS MATTERS WITH THE CITY-SITE HAVE COME TO A RATHER UNPLEASANT PASS.
ALONZO BROWN MEMORIAL HOUSE
...DEMAND AN END TO DEMOLITION AND ALL-NEW PLANNING TALKS--TO INCLUDE THEM.
NO MORE BLASTING!
THAT'S FINE. EXCEPT THAT NOBODY WANTS TO TALK TO THEM SEE IF YOU CAN GET ME A MEDIATOR FOR--
COM-M.SSIONER! IT'S PERFECT SECURI-TY...
"...THEY SAY THEY'RE GOING IN!"
CLEAR THE AREA! THIS AREA WILL NOT BE SAFE!
PREPARE TO FIRE--
BUT... PUBLIC OPINION, MISTER OLMSTEDT?
DAMN PUBLIC OPINION! ..E WILL BE PUBLIC OPINION!
NO
NO

"BATMAN AND HIS LITTLE FRIENDS WILL NOT HUMILIATE ME AGAIN!"
WHO AUTHORIZED THIS? DOES THE MAYOR KNOW ABOUT--
COMMISSIONER! WE'VE GOT A RADIO-CALL--
--SAYS IT'S THE MAYOR.
THANK GOD. KEEP YOUR EYE ON THIS, TRY TO KEEP IT FROM EXPLODING!
YOUR HONOR, WHAT--
BZZT
MISTER MAYOR?
BZZT
BLAST IT, WHAT--
JIM.
WHO IS IT? WHAT IS THIS? I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR--
LOOK UP, JIM.
ALWAYS LOOK UP. I THINK I CAN GET US OUT OF THIS, JIM.
JUST HOLD OLMSTEDT OFF BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY.
COMMISSIONER-- I'M LOSING THEM! THEY'RE PLOWING THROUGH! IS THE--
COMMISSIONER?
GET ME MEN! GET ME MEN!

THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN FIGHT THOSE GUYS HEAD TO HEAD.
SO WE LEAD THEM UP TO THE ROOF.
THEY CAN KILL US ON THE ROOF SAME AS HERE!
YEAH. BUT ON THE ROOF THE WHOLE WORLD CAN SEE THEM DO IT.
NO.
THEY'LL BE STOPPED SOON. AND STOPPED PERMANENTLY.
BUT I NEED YOUR HELP. IF DONNA DIFORZA CAME HERE TO CUT A DEAL... WOULD YOU GIVE HER FREE ENTRY AND EXIT?
DIFORZA... HERE?
IT'S A COP TRICK! DON'T LISTEN TO HIM!
YEAH, BUT IF SHE'LL TALK... ISN'T THAT WHAT WE WANT?
WE DON'T NEED HER. SHE'S A MOUTH-PIECE.
WELL, BATS, LIKE YOU CAN SEE... WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO VOTE ON THIS.
THEN VOTE. BUT VOTE FOR MEETING HER.
IT'S THE ONLY WAY OUT... FOR ANY OF US.
NOW THERE'S A GUY CAN USE SOME POLITICAL REEDUCATION.

CLEAR THE AREA! CLEAR IT NOW!
NO MORE BLASTING!
NO MORE BLASTING!
RABBLE.
JUST LIKE THE WALL.
BUT THIS TIME-- THE WALL STANDS!
NO!
I'M ORDERING YOU OUT OF HERE!
YOU MAY HAVE THE FANCY SUITS-- BUT I'VE STILL GOT THE COMMISSIONER'S JOB!
NOT FOR LONG, I THINK.
LONG ENOUGH TO BUST YOU, OLMSTEDT.
NOW GET--
--THE HELL--
--OUT!
YOU CAN EXPECT TO HEAR ABOUT THIS, GORDON.

SHROOOOM
BROWN
AL HOUSE
YOU FREED HER!
YOU CAUSED THIS, BRUCE! YOU PAID FOR THAT WOMAN'S LAWYER!
BECAUSE YOUR FRIEND OLMSTEDT FRAMED HER.
BRUCE... I DON'T UNDERSTAND THIS I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW YOU COULD BETRAY ME LIKE THIS.
I WANT HIM OUT!

GORDON IS PROTECTING THAT RABBLE I DEMAND HE BE INVESTIGATED!
OH, LORD, THIS IS GETTING OUT OF HAND...
ALL RIGHT, FRITZ. I'LL HANDLE THIS. YOU--
YOU?! YOU WILL HANDLE THIS?
YOU CANNOT EVEN HANDLE YOUR OWN INVESTORS! YOU CANNOT HANDLE THIS TRAITOR WAYNE!
THAT'S ENOUGH, FRITZ! YOU'VE EXCEEDED YOUR AUTHORITY!
NOW, YOU WAIT FOR YOUR ORDERS...
...OR I'LL LAUNCH AN INVESTIGATION OF YOU.
CHK
CHK
CHK
SLAM
NOW, DO YOU SEE WHAT YOU'VE LET LOOSE?
NO, DONNA
I SEE WHAT YOU'VE LET LOOSE.

RIGHT OR WRONG, THOSE SQUATTERS ARE SHOWING US THAT WE CAN'T IMPOSE NEW GOTHAM ON THEM WITHOUT THEIR PARTICIPATION.
TALK TO THEM, DONNA.
BUT THERE'S NO PLACE FOR THEM I'VE HAD EXPERTS ON THIS PROJECT. I HAVE AMERICA'S LEADERS ON IT.
WHAT DO THOSE PEOPLE KNOW?
THEY KNOW THEIR NEIGHBORHOOD. THEY KNOW WHAT THEY NEED.
WE CAN'T LET GREAT PLANS BE DESTROYED BY SMALL MINDS!
AND WHAT ABOUT THE SMALL MINDS... IN THE BIG ARMORED SUITS?
ALL RIGHT. ALL RIGHT.
I'M A PRAGMATIC WOMAN. I'LL MEET THESE PEOPLE...
...IF IT WILL KEEP FRITZ FROM DOING SOMETHING DANGEROUS.

BASEBALL? WHY ARE YOU TALKING TO ME ABOUT BASEBALL?
THINK, JOKER! IF A LYCANTHROPE MARRIED A BASEBALL EQUIPMENT MANAGER, WHAT WOULD THEIR SON BE?
A LYCANTHROPE! AND I'M SUPPOSED TO GUESS WHO YOU'RE WITH FROM THAT?
OH, JOKER, YOU'RE SO OBTUSE. NEVER MIND. I'M GOING TO CALL THE PENGUIN.
ZNK
HOW DID YOU GET INTO THIS OFFICE?
OH, REALLY, BATMAN. YOU KNOW THAT A LOCK IS JUST A PUZZLE IN METAL.
BUT DON'T WORRY. I DIDN'T STEAL ANYTHING.
THAT WOULD SPOIL THE FUN OF BEING BATMAN'S SIDEKICK, WOULDN'T IT?
THE FUN'S JUST BEGINNING, RIDDLER.
TIME FOR YOU TO PLAY CONSULTANT AGAIN.

BUT, SEIJI-- MS. DIFORZA SAID STAY.
CHIK
AND MISTER OLMSTEDT SAYS GO.
WHO DO YOU WANT TO OBEY?
KLIK
INDEED.
DEXTER GORDON. WARDELL GRAY. "THE HUNT."
THE PERFECT THEME FOR OUR HUNT.
CHNK
CHARLIE PARKER
CHARLIE PARKER
DNCH
VVSSSHHHHHH
POP
PAPA
POP
PAPA
POP
PAPA
POP
PAPA
POP

NO TRICKS, RIGHT, LADY?
I DON'T NEED TRICKS.
SHE ALONE?
YEAH. NO COPS IN SIGHT.
YOU MUST BE BOB. I HAVE TO SAY, I ADMIRE YOUR COURAGE.
YEAH.. WELL... YOURS TOO. COMING HERE.
BUT YOU DIDN'T COME FOR EGO STROKES, RIGHT?
RIGHT YOU KNOW I WON'T GIVE UP MY PROJECT AND I CAN'T ASK YOU TO GIVE UP YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD. BUT THERE IS A WAY WE CAN WORK THIS OUT--PEACE-FULLY.
NO.

NO! I ORDERED YOU TO STAY AT THE TOWER!
BUT HOW CAN WE STAY AT THE TOWER, MS. DIFORZA--WHEN YOU HAVE BEEN KIDNAPPED?
KIDNAPPED?!
FRITZ, I CAME HERE--
BECAUSE THEY FORCED YOU, MS. DIFORZA. AND WE HAVE TO KILL THEM TO SAVE YOU.
AND YOU... PERHAPS SUFFER BRAIN DAMAGE IN THE COURSE OF THE CRIME.
CHIC
THIS IS AN AIR RIFLE, YOU SEE. AND IT CAN DO GREAT DAMAGE WITHOUT... KILLING YOU.
WHAT--
NO! NOT AGAIN!

KRAAASH
HOLD TIGHT, MS. DIFORZA.
KKK BUUM
WE'RE NOT ALONE. I HAVE A FRIEND WHO SAYS HE KNOWS SOME THINGS ABOUT HOW THOSE BIG FELLOWS WORK.
AND HE'S WAITING RIGHT OVER...
..NOWHERE.
LEAVE THE SQUATTERS FOR LATER--GET ME BATMAN!
QUICK! GET EVERY-BODY OUT!

YOUR FRIEND RAN OUT?
QUIET.
THEY PICK UP SOUNDS.
STEP SLOWLY OR THEY'LL--
HEAR YOU, BATMAN?
SPLAT
RUN, DONNA!
BEFORE HE GETS THE PLASTIC OUT OF HIS BARREL!
I NEED NO GUN AGAINST YOU, BATMAN! I NEED ONLY MY--

THONG
gugh
GO.
IN HERE. STAY LOW. I CAN GET HIM TO FOLLOW ME.
THEN TRY TO ISOLATE HIM.
AND GET INTO THAT ARMOR.
BEFORE HE KILLS ME.

I WILL FIND YOU, BATMAN! I HEAR YOUR STEPS!
TNG TNG
WOULD I BE BETTER OFF IF HE KNEW WHO IT REALLY WAS?
TNG TNG
I WILL FIND YOU! I WILL FIND YOU!
I DON'T THINK SO.
SEIJI. SHINJI. DO YOU DETECT HIM?
NOTHING, MISTER OLMSTEDT.
ONLY RAIN.

FWANG
KLONG
OH, NO.
BATMAN, YOU CAN'T--

Hmm.
NOW, HERE'S A PUZZLE. HOW DO I ESCAPE FROM TWO TONS OF ELEC-TRONIC--
CHAKOA CHAKOA CHAKOA
WHOOP!
CHAK
BOP
NOW, IS THIS GOOD... OR IS THIS BAD?
WHOK
hahhh

WONK
UH-OH. ARE THESE TRACKS?
IT IS BAD TO BE DESPERATE, BATMAN.
ALWAYS DEAL FROM A POSITION OF STRENGTH.
GYUUUHH!
GOSH, BEAV. WE'RE REALLY GOING TO GET IT NOW.
BWAAAAA
OH PLEASE, OH PLEASE, BATMAN...
AH, MS DIFORZA, DO NOT WORRY. YOU ARE SAFE NOW.
MISTER OLMSTEDT WILL LOOK AFTER YOU... FROM NOW ON.

kkhh
NOW, WHY DOESN'T THE SUBWAY EVER BREAK DOWN WHEN YOU WANT IT TO?
RUMMMMMBBLE
WHAT NOW, BATMAN? YOU PREFER TO HAVE YOUR BACK BROKEN THAN YOUR THROAT CRUSHED?
WELL, I AM EAGER TO PLEASE.
nn
naguhh!

NO!
SEIJI! KILL HIM!
CHAK CHAK
CHAK CHAK
RIDDLER...
...YOU...
...IDIOT...
IF I DIDN'T...
UGH
...NEED YOU...
OH, YOU DON'T FOOL ME, BATMAN!

YOU'D DO THIS NO MATTER WHAT. THAT'S WHAT MAKES YOU SO DELIGHTFUL!

SCREE
RIDDLER...

...SHUT UP!

EEEE

OH...
...MM.
SO. WHAT I COULD NOT DO, YOUR OWN CITY DOES.
"IT IS THUS TO ALL RABBLE...BATMAN."

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